

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action of Examiner Kieu D. Vu of 3 June 2004.

Claims 1-19 and 21 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-13 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner refers to "said searchable object" at line 14. Applicants have amended claim 1 to refer to selectable object, antecedent basis for which is provided in the claim.

With respect to claim 21, the Examiner refers to "set of hits". Applicants have amended the claim to clarify the references to "set of hits" by designating selector items as either a first or a second set of hits presented in the floating window selectively as a result of selecting a

search or a what's new context.

Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-13 and 21 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-13 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Grau et al (Grau, USP 5,910,803) and Salas et al (Salas, USP 6,314,408).

Claims 14-18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Grau, Salas, and Rodden et al (Rodden, USP 6,473,102).

By way of summary, the Examiner appears to be relying on Grau for a teaching of the search concept, on Salas for a teaching of collaboration space, and on Rodden for a teaching of floating windows.

Applicants invention provides a quick browse window, which is a separate window from a main window. The main window is a window that is opened in a user interface as a

result of a user selecting a search or a what's new operation. The term "main window" is used to distinguish it from the "quick browse window". The quickbrowse window is loaded with short, descriptive links to hits from a user browser initiated search of collaboration space. The search is user initiated as either a regular search or a what's new search against collaboration space. The results of the search are displayed in a main window which is opened in response to the search. That main window also contains a quickbrowse icon or other selector 302. The user clicks on the quickbrowse icon or selector, and in response a quickbrowse floating window 296 opens which includes the search results as selection items. As the user clicks on selection items in the quickbrowse window the selected content is displayed in the main window.

The essential and distinguishing feature over the art references is that the quickbrowse selector is presented to the user as part of or within the window (herein designated as a main window to distinguish it from the floating or quickbrowse window) which is opened in response to and for the purpose of presenting the results of the search of collaboration space.

These features are described in applicants specification at pages 83-85, as follows. In this description, the quickbrowse selector of claim 1 is referred to as a remote control icon, and the main window of claim 1 is referred to as a main Quick Place window and also as a search results or what's new context.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a system and method is provided for enhancing browsing in collaboration space of collections of links. These link collections exist in a variety of formats which users need to be able to quickly visit in any order. For example, a random access UI is provided to What's New and Search Results links. These items can reside in more than [one] room, producing potentially brutal context switches from one link to the next...

Referring to Figure 14, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, quick-browse is implemented as a "remote control" UI mechanism 304. A Remote Control link/icon is displayed in any context 296 that supports it, such as Search Results and What's New. When the user clicks the remote control link 302,

such as button 536 (Figure 10)... a window 296, 330 opens with a compact set of links 304 to browse. When the user clicks a link in the remote control 304, the main QuickPlace window 330 is redirected to the linked page 332...

Clicking the remote control icon opens a quickbrowse window, containing one or more links. Upon being clicked, these links open in the main QuickPlace window; therefore the QuickBrowse window acts like a remote control onto the main window. This allows the set of hits to remain available as the user browses around, in any order. What's New and Search Results generate links that can be anywhere in a QuickPlace - i.e., in any of possibly many different rooms. The QuickBrowse window is an attempt to bring some coherence to the experience of jumping around all over the QuickPlace. (Emphasis added.)

All independent claims variously recite these features. As amended, the claims clearly distinguish the Grau reference, upon which the Examiner relies for the "searching" concept and the quickbrowse selector.

Applicants claim 1 (as currently amended) states:

1. A method for browsing in collaboration space,
comprising the steps of:

presenting to a user at a browser an interface to said
collaboration space;

The Examiner refers to Salas for the teaching of a
browser for browsing and displaying links in a
collaborative work environment, and to Grau, col.
1, lines 63-67, which states:

"A management console interacts with the
server to provide a graphical user interface
for displaying the atlas on a computer screen
in a variety of views that facilitate
comprehension of logical relationships
between various components of the system."
(Grau, col. 1, lines 63-67).

Applicants agree that Salas and Grau teach
presentation at a browser of an interface to
collaboration space.

responsive to said user opening in said interface a main window selectively including context resulting from entry of a search of a selectable object...

The Examiner refers to Grau, col. 2, lines 12-14, which states:

"To that end, the atlas viewer cooperates with the atlas manager to retrieve the topology data describing the structure and layout of the selected maps within the network atlas." (Grau, col. 2, lines 12-14).

...in said collaboration space or in a what's new subset of said collaboration space, presenting a quick browse selector and results of said search in said main window;

The Examiner refers to Grau, col. 2, lines 9-18, citing window 600 as the "main window" and element 615 as the quick browse selector. Grau states:

"On the other hand, the management console preferably comprises an atlas viewer for

displaying selected maps of the atlas that are visible through specialized windows of the graphical user interface. To that end, the atlas viewer cooperates with the atlas manager to retrieve the topology data describing the structure and layout of the selected maps within the network atlas. Maps are preferably selected using a browser navigation facility which allows a user to easily switch between maps of interest by selecting the name of a desired map." (Grau, col. 2, lines 9-18).

Elements 600 and 615 are described by Grau as follows:

"FIG. 6 is a diagram of a specialized viewer window 600... The viewer window 600 is configured to simplify moving among locations of the atlas maps and, as such, provides navigation features within a plurality of panes 610 and 620. In the left pane 610, a browser 615 is provided to display a list of map names, as the right pane 620 displays a

map that is selected from among those names of the browser list. Specifically, the browser navigation facility allows a user to easily switch between maps of interest by selecting the name of a desired map. The desired map may be displayed by positioning the mouse pointer and clicking on that name. The currently displayed map page is indicated by a box 612 surrounding the corresponding map name. It should be understood that other types of browsers, e.g., a tree browser depicting a directory of maps, may be used in place of the browser list...." (Grau, col. 7, lines 47-63.)

It is apparent from an examination of Figure 6 and of the above quoted material from Col. 7 of Grau that browser 615, which may be considered to have certain similar function as applicants' quickbrowse window is not at all equivalent to applicants quickbrowse selector. As previously described, applicants' quickbrowse selector is selector which is presented in a main window which a user may click to open a quickbrowse window.

Grau's browser 615 is not such a selector. Grau's element 615 refers to the entire list of maps presented in pane 610, one of which (WAN 612) has been selected and is being viewed in pane 620.

responsive to user selection of said quick browse selector,

searching said selectable object to generate a set of hits,

The Examiner cites "maps" as the claimed set of hits. Presumably, this refers to the list of maps 615 in pane 610.

creating a set of links to said set of hits to control said main window without losing context,

The Examiner cites a "list of map names" as a set of links. Applicants demur.

displaying said context in a separate quick browse window within said main window in a simpler format, with an entry in said separate quick

browse window for each item in said set of hits;
and

The Examiner cites left pane 610 in Fig. 6 as the quickbrowse window.

Applicants note that there is no teaching of opening left pane 610 responsive to a user selecting a quickbrowse selector which appears in right pane 620. For Grau to teach applicants claim, there would have to be such a quickbrowse selector. Element 615 does not appear in main window 620, nor is it selected to open a quickbrowse window.

responsive to user selection of an item in said quick browse window, displaying in said main window an object linked to said item.

The Examiner cites pane 620 as the main window in which an item linked to the selected item is displayed. Previously, the Examiner cited element 600 as the main window.

Applicants argue that a closest possible reading of Grau would draw analogy between Grau's window 600 and applicants' claimed interface, and between Grau's window 620 and applicants' claimed main window.

However, even window 620 does not qualify as applicants main window, for it does not include a quickbrowse selector which a user may click (or select) to open a quickbrowse window.

The above analysis of claim 1 also pertains with respect to all other independent claims 14, 19, and 21.

Claim 14 recites "remote control mechanism responsive to user selection and displayed in any context in said user interface supporting a quick browse feature". In this case, the "remote control mechanism" may be considered a quickbrowse selector and the context supporting a quick browse feature may be considered the main window, as those have been distinguished from Grau in connection with claim 1.

Claim 19 requires that the quickplace selector be presented in a main window, that is the window in which the search results are displayed. On this point, Grau has previously been distinguished.

Claim 21 recites "selectively presenting said first set of hits or said second set of hits and a quickbrowse selector to said user in a main window of said interface". On this point, Grau has previously been distinguished.

Neither Salas nor Rodden teach the concept of presenting in a main window (as that term is used in the claims) a quickbrowse selector, so the combination of Grau with Salas and Rodden does not teach applicants invention as now defined in any of applicants independent claims.

Applicants urge that claims 1-19 and 21 be allowed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-19 and 21.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

T. J. Linsey, et al.

By


Shelley M Beckstrand
Reg. No. 24,886

Date: 4 October 2004

Shelley M Beckstrand, P.C.
Attorney at Law
314 Main Street
Owego, NY 13827

Phone: (607) 687-9913
Fax: (607) 687-7848